
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 4.23.2010

Wall Street Journal: "Finance Bill Climax Looms ... President Barack Obama used a Manhattan speech to urge top banking executives to back his sweeping overhaul of financial-market rules, while in Washington the bill gained steam as cracks in the Republican opposition improved its prospects in Congress.

New York Times: "Obama to Wall St.: 'Join Us, Instead of Fighting Us' ... President Obama took his rhetoric of reform on Thursday to the nation's financial capital in a high-profile foray to chide Wall Street bankers for their "reckless practices" and to press for tighter regulations meant to avert another financial crisis."

Washington Post: "Obama makes a strong case for financial reform ... President Obama's assertive stride into the debate on financial regulatory reform stands in marked contrast to the messy health-care battle that consumed most of the past year. It also represents a crucial part of a political strategy that -- at least so far -- appears to be moving a bill through Congress more easily."

Wall Street Journal: "Credit Raters' Emails Show Concerns ... New documents from a congressional inquiry shows the tense relationship between credit-ratings firms and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. as they structured risky deals like the one featured in the recent fraud allegations against the investment bank."

New York Times: "Documents Show Internal Qualms at Rating Agencies ... In 2004, well before the risks embedded in Wall Street's bets on subprime mortgages became widely known, employees at Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, were feeling pressure to expand the business.."

Washington Post: "SEC divided on vote to file Goldman lawsuit ... Behind closed doors, the two Republican members of the Securities and Exchange Commission sharply questioned senior investigators last week about whether the evidence they had assembled was strong enough to file a fraud case against Goldman Sachs, according to current and former SEC officials familiar with the matter."

Wall Street Journal: "Weaker Regional Banks Are Healing ...Wall Street's impressive recovery has spread even to weak Main Street regional banks. Ohio-based Fifth Third Bancorp, until recently swamped by loan losses, on Thursday joined stronger rivals PNC Financial Services Group Inc. and BB&T Corp. in posting the latest round of strong regional bank earnings. The reports from all three banks include still further evidence that borrowers of all types-whether consumers or companies-are increasingly able to repay their debts, helped in large part by an improving economy.."

Wall Street Journal: "Disclosures for CDO Deals Differ About Their Selections, ConflictsWall Street banks provided spotty disclosures about how mortgage securities were selected for deals like the one in the government's civil fraud suit against Goldman Sachs Group Inc., according to a review of marketing and offering documents for more than a dozen mortgage deals.."

New York Times Op-Ed: "Don't Cry for Wall Street ... On Thursday, President Obama went to Manhattan, where he urged an audience drawn largely from Wall Street to back financial reform. "I believe," he declared, "that these reforms are, in the end, not only in the best interest of our country, but in the best interest of the financial sector."

Washington Post: "The best financial reform? Let the bankers fail ... The trouble with Wall Street isn't that too many bankers get rich in the booms. The trouble, rather, is that too few get poor -- really, suitably poor -- in the busts. To the titans of finance go the upside. To we, the people, nowadays, goes the downside. How much better it would be if the bankers took the losses just as they do the profits."

Washington Post: "Wall Street's know-it-alls can't tell right from wrong ... I know you'll all be comforted, as I was Wednesday, by the public vote of confidence from Steve Schwartzman, chief executive of private equity giant Blackstone Group, when he said that his firm would continue to do business with Goldman Sachs and that he's never had a shred of doubt about the investment bank's ethical character."

Washington Post: "How Obama found his mojo on Wall Street ...The politics of financial regulatory reform are simple. After the meltdown and the bailout, many Americans -- perhaps most Americans -- are inclined to see Wall Street as predatory and all-devouring. Striding into the lion's den and calling the beast to heel, as President Obama did Thursday, was a move without a downside."